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THE
IMPORTANCE
OF
CAPE BRETON
TO THE
BRITISH NATION.

D. 214.

Humbly represented by

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ROBERT AUCKMUTY,

Judge of His Majesty's Court of Vice-Admiralty
for the Provinces of MASSACHUSETT'S-BAY and NEW-
HAMPSHIRE, in NEW-ENGLAND.

N. B. Upon the Plan laid down in this Representation, the Island was
taken by Commodore WARREN and General PEPPERILL, the
14th of June, 1745.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. BICKERTON, in the Temple-Exchange, near the Inner-
Temple-Gate, Fleet-street. MDCCLXV.

[Price Six-pence.]

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dangerous a variety of reasons this island therefore has been, and ever will be, while in their possession, is too obvious to a British constitution; and it is as demonstrable

as the fact, that the consequence will certainly be to break up their fishery, and destroy this formidable enemy of Britain; for if they are happily removed from this advantageous shelter, no protection is left for them on the fishing ground near Old France: Therefore they will not expose themselves to the frequent surprises

and captures of the English from this island and the coast, which will be obliged to quit the island, and leaving the English in the sole possession of this most valuable branch of trade, which annually will return to the

English nation 2,000,000 pounds sterling, for the manufactures yearly shipped to her plantations; and constantly employ thousands of families, otherwise unemployable to the public; and greatly increase shipping, and navigation, and manufactures. It is further to be observed, that the English solely supply foreign markets with this commodity, Roman Catholic families must have a sort of dependency on them.

Moreover, the acquisition of this important island cuts off all communication between France and Quebec, the

navigation to Canada being thereby interrupted, and the French to the only possessions the French have upon the coast to the northward of Louisiana, in the great bay of Mexico.

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dangerous a nursery of seamen this island therefore has been, and ever will be, while in their possession, is too obvious to a British constitution; and it is as demonstrable, the recovery of a place of this consequence will entirely break up their fishery, and destroy this formidable seminary of seamen; for, if they are happily removed from this advantageous shelter, no protection is left for them on the fishing ground nearer than Old France: Therefore they will not expose themselves to the frequent surprizes and captures of the English from this island and the continent; but, finally, will be obliged to quit the undertaking, leaving the English in the sole possession of this most valuable branch of trade, which annually will return to the English nation 2,000,000 pounds sterling, for the manufactures yearly shipped to her plantations; and constantly employ thousands of families, otherwise unserviceable to the public; and greatly increase shipping, and navigation, and mariners. It is further to be observed, while the English solely supply foreign markets with this commodity, Roman Catholic families must have a sort of dependency on them.

Moreover, the acquisition of this important island cuts off all communication between France and Quebec, the navigation to Canada river bearing near it, and must obstruct the French navigation through the bay of St. Lawrence to the only possessions the French have upon the sea-coast to the northward of Louisiana, in the great bay of Mexico.

By this means, Quebec must, in the run of very little time, fall into the hands of the English; and the Indians, wanting the usual protection and supplies from France, will be obliged to court the English for both; and having once experienced the treatment of both nations, as the latter can supply them better and cheaper than the former, they will consequently be rivetted in interest to her; and thus the English will render themselves entirely masters of the rich and profitable furr trade, at present chiefly engrossed by the French.

But

But the consideration alone, that the British navigation and settlements on the sea-coasts throughout North-America, at present lie terribly exposed to men of war and privateers from this island, claims an attention to proper measures for immediately regaining possession of it: For from thence the French, with ease and little time, may station themselves in latitudes proper to intercept the navigation between England and all her plantations, and the intercourse of trade subsisting between one plantation and another, by captures supplying themselves with English manufactures, naval stores, masts, yards, plank, lumber, sugar, cotton, provisions, &c. and from its vicinity with the continent may, with the like ease, surprize our settlements all along the coast, and take the mast ships when loaded out of Casco and Portsmouth harbours: Whereas the accession of this island to the British dominions will not only secure our navigation, and guard our coasts in America; but will be a safe retreat for our men of war in the hurricane months, or when threatened with a superior force: Besides, there they with greater safety, and less expence to the crown, may refit, than in any other harbour in North-America.

The expence and danger in taking this place, will bear no proportion to the advantages and profits thereby resulting to the English nation, and her plantations. To favour, therefore, an enterprize of so much consequence, 'tis humbly proposed that proper laws should be enacted, making it felony, without benefit of the clergy, in North America, to supply the enemy with warlike stores, provisions, &c.

And whereas Virginia, Maryland, New-York, Massachusetts-Bay, and Casco, in time of peace, usually have each a station ship of 20 guns: 'tis humbly proposed to add to each one of 50 guns, and they immediately to sail from hence to their respective stations, with orders constantly to keep cruising on the fishing-banks, and in latitudes proper to obstruct the French fishery and navigation

tion, protect our own, and especially to intercept stores, provisions, &c. getting into Cape Breton.

It is likewise humbly proposed, that these men of war should carry cloathing, arms, and all manner of warlike stores; necessary for a body of 3000 men, to be raised in the following governments, viz. in Virginia 300, in Maryland 150, Pensilvania 350, New-York 250, Jersey 150, Connecticut 350, Rhode-Island 250, Massachusetts-Bay 1000, and New-Hampshire 150; and instructions to these governments to encourage the speedy raising their respective complements, in order to have the more time to discipline them, concealing the real design under the specious pretence that these troops are raised to defend the governments from the surprize of an enemy.

It is also humbly proposed, that these levies should be formed into three regiments, each regiment to consist of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, seven captains, twenty lieutenants, ten ensigns, an adjutant, a quarter-master, and serjeants and corporals in proportion, and 1000 private men; and, to encourage the raising them with expedition, that all the officers (ten lieutenants, the adjutant, and quarter-master excepted) should be gentlemen of interest in those several colonies (the American half-pay officers therein to be provided for according to their merit and rank) and the several governments to have transports, provisions, &c. necessary for the transportation of their respective quotas by the beginning of April, 1745; and having experienced the loyalty of the Massachusetts for twenty-seven years, I presume to engage they will cheerfully furnish their compliment.

It is, with great submission, further proposed, that a squadron of six ships of the line, with 2000 regular troops, and all things necessary for a formal siege, should take their departure from hence the beginning of March next, so as to anchor in Gabaron-bay, within four miles of the rampart of Lewisborough, by the middle of April following, there to be joined by the American troops, under the con-

voy.

voy of the station ships. This may be executed without loss of a man, no cannon commanding the entrance of this harbour, and where the navy of England may safely ride, it may be conceived adviseable there to land the troops, and from thence to march and make regular approaches to the rampart, which is near three-quarters of a mile in length, has a foss and bastions suitably disposed; but both bastions and curtains are of masonry to the summit, which is thirty-six feet above the field, the quoins and embrasures are of hewn stone, the rest of small round stones, cemented with mortar composed of their own lime, which is very bad, and salt-water sand, incapable of standing the frost, inso-much that every winter there is a repair almost equal to new. It is judged, by the connoisseurs, that the fire of their own cannon will shake down the works, and that they will not stand a battery. If the rampart is taken, the citadel, and four other batteries that command the harbour, must yield; and, what facilitates the design, there is no outworks, glaces, and covert-way.

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